

Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Editor,

The family of Bill Wilcoxon would like to thank our family and friends for attending his memorial, all of the cards, flowers, and well wishes. We are so lucky to have such wonderful family and friends. Thank you all!

Darlene, Shelley, Kathi, Eric, and our families

To the Editor,

United Way of Columbia County, in partnership with Friends of the St. Helens, Scappoose and Columbia City Libraries, St. Helens Noon Kiwanis, St. Helens Lions Club, St. Helens Rotary Columbia Pacific CCO, LLC and community members, are raising funds to sustain the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to Columbia County.

This program provides a

free book a month to all children birth to five years of age for \$25 per child per year. Currently, 1,350 Columbia County youth are enrolled in this program! 550 Columbia County youth have graduated from this program with a full library collection to send them into kindergarten success! Once a child is enrolled, they receive their first book 90 days from enrollment. All books are selected, purchased, and mailed by the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. It is our local responsibility to reimburse the foundation for the cost of packaging and mailing these books to each child.

Your donation of \$30 can provide a child a book a month for a year. Donations can be made to United Way of Columbia County (be sure to put DPIL or Imagination Library in the memo line), PO Box 538, Rainier, OR 97048. Contact United Way of Columbia County for more information at dpil@unitedwayofcolumbia-county.com.

county.com.

Please consider helping to provide children in our community an opportunity to enjoy the love of owning their own books and learning to love reading. It can change their lives. Thank you.

Advisory Committee
for the Imagination Library

Community Calendar

Columbia County Household Hazardous Waste Collection – June 12, 8-2pm at the county transfer station, 1601 Railroad Ave in St. Helens.

SAVE THE DATE
Junk in the Trunk – Saturday, July 17, 9:00 am in the Greenman Grandstands lot

Summer Meals Program Returns

Free Summer Meals will once again be available through the Vernonia School District. This service will begin on Monday, June 21, and will run throughout the summer, ending on Friday, August 20.

These free meals are provided through U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program. Summer meals are available free for kids ages 1-18, and there is no income requirement or paperwork needed in order to participate. This includes children residing in Vernonia, and those who are just visiting. Adult

meals are NOT available for purchase this summer, as there will be no on-site dining.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions meals will NOT be served on-site again this summer. All meals will need to be picked up at the Vernonia Schools building between 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, Monday through Friday most weeks.

For any questions regarding summer meal service in Vernonia Schools, please call Superintendent Aaron Miller at (503) 429-5891.

HOW TO SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vernonia's Voice welcomes and requests your thoughts, opinions and ideas. Please include your name, address, and phone number, limit your letters to 300 words or less. Vernonia's Voice reserves the right to edit, omit, respond, or ask for a response to letters submitted. We will print letters space permitting. Deadline is the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Email: scott@vernoniasvoice.com or mail to: Letters, PO Box 55, Vernonia, OR 97064.

The Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD
Board of Directors
will meet by teleconference
for their regular board meeting
Tuesday, June 15, 2021
at 7:00 pm.

Access Info:
Conference call-in access #
+1 971 247 1195
Meeting ID: 967 3951 4035
Passcode: 715430

<http://www.mistbirkenfeld-rfpd.org>



Young Wildlife Are Rarely Orphaned

Leave them where you find them – and keep your pets away too

Memorial Day weekend traditionally signifies the start of summer – and the birthing season for Oregon's elk and deer herds. Elk calves and deer fawns are born from late May through mid-June.

Fawns and calves are most vulnerable to predation in their first few weeks of life when they can't run with the herd. Their mothers will hide them in brush and go off to forage for food some distance away, sometimes for long periods so as to not call attention to their young. (A fawn or calf's spotted coat helps camouflage them as they stay motionless except when nursing. They also have very little odor as another protection against attracting predators.)

But each year, well-intentioned people mistake a young fawn or calf hidden by its mother as permanently abandoned or orphaned and remove it from the wild to "save" it. Instead, this action drastically reduces its chance to survive in the wild. When removed from the wild, the animal misses the chance to learn where to seek cover, what to eat, and how to escape from

predators and other dangers.

"Sadly, we see dozens of fawns and calves that have their lifespan drastically shortened each year because people don't understand they aren't actually orphaned," said Brian Wolfer, ODFW Wildlife Program Manager. "Please never assume a calf, fawn, or other young animal is orphaned. Don't remove it from the forest, or your backyard."

When wildlife biologists get the call that someone has picked one up, the advice is always the same: Put it back. "The best thing you can do is just to leave it alone and don't let your pets near it," continued Wolfer.

The outcome of a life in the wild is so much better than in captivity that ODFW will try to foster calves and fawns removed from the wild with other herds – putting the young animal back in the wild with a herd that isn't its own in hopes another animal will raise it. "Fostering is the next best option for a young calf or fawn removed from the wild that can't be returned to where it was taken from – and a better option than being in captivity," said Wolfer.

Pets should also be kept away from wildlife. Deer and elk see dogs as a threat to their young so may act ag-

gressively in response. "Give deer and elk some extra room this time of year if possible to prevent any conflict," said Wolfer.

Because of the damage it can do to both wildlife and people, removing an animal from the wild is illegal under Oregon wildlife laws (ORS 497.308).

A male deer fawn that weighs under 8 pounds at birth can grow to 280 pounds. Deer and elk are naturally wary of humans – but if removed from the wild and raised by people they lose that fear and can go on to behave aggressively and threaten people.

The advice to leave animals in the wild applies to all wildlife – including adult and young marine mammals that are commonly seen alone resting on rocks or the beach in spring and summer. Beachgoers are asked to stay away from all resting seals and sea lions and keep dogs away from these animals as well. Marine mammal strandings should be reported to OSP's hotline at 1-800-452-7888.

If you are certain an animal is orphaned because you saw its parent die, please call ODFW, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator or OSP for advice.



Columbia Humane Society



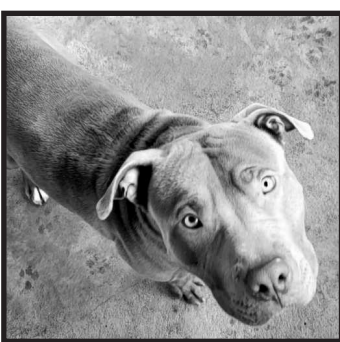
Purr-fect Pals



come and meet him. His adoption fee is \$125 which includes all vaccinations, spay, testing for FELV/FIV, and treatment for fleas and worms.

This handsome boy's name is Storm Daddy Cam and he's full of energy and life. Cam is about four months old and has a sad story; he came from a home that had 55 cats. This poor kid had a terrible upper respiratory infection that had also spread to his eyes. Due to the infection going without treatment he does have permanent scarring on his eyes, although there is little effect on his vision. He plays and acts just like a normal kitten. Cam does ok with other cats, but at times can be a bully. We suggest that if he is going to be placed in a home with other cats that it should be a well adjusted female cat that won't stand for his games. Cam has no experience with dogs, but with slow introductions, a dog that is experienced with cats, with the ability to separate them, he will probably be able to live with a dog. Cam has a very aggressive play style, so we suggest he be placed with kids over 10 years old. If you are interested in meeting Cam we ask that you please email adoption@columbi humane.org in order to obtain an application. Once we have an approved application on file we will then schedule a time for you to

Featured Dog



please email adoption@columbi humane.org in order to obtain an application. His adoption fee is \$250, which includes his neuter, microchip, and all his current vaccinations. All adoptions are done by appointment only, with an approved application on file.

Jango is a young, energetic one year old Staffordshire Terrier mix. This guy is full of life and energy. He will need a family that is patient and will be willing to work with him. He is your typical one year old puppy that hasn't had a lot of guidance in his life. He loves to play and seems to do well with other dogs. However, due to him being a male, we are only willing to place him with a female dog that is active and can put up with his antics. We do not know how he will be with cats. Due to his excitement level we suggest only placing him with kids over 12 years old. He is wiggly and doesn't always know his size. If you are interested in meeting Jango we ask that you